



**Representative  
Joyce McDonald**

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7948  
mcdonald\_jo@leg.wa.gov  
Toll-free Legislative Hotline:  
1-800-562-6000

# Rep. Joyce McDonald 2003 Legislative Survey Results



25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for responding to the survey that I sent to your home in March. Your responses have been very valuable to me as I consider legislation. This has been an especially difficult budget year, and I have done my best to represent the views of the people of the 25th District. I appreciate your effort to actively participate in your government.

I thought you may be interested to know how your neighbors in the 25th District responded, so I am sending this letter only to those who returned the legislative survey. The following is a tabulation of the total results.

Again, let me encourage you to call my office if you have any questions, comments, suggestions or ideas.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you!

Sincerely,

Rep. Joyce McDonald

## Legislative Survey Results - 2003

### **Legislative priorities**

I asked you to rank the following issues in order of their importance to you. This tally shows your first choice.

- 22%** crime and security
- 19%** education
- 19%** property taxes
- 15%** health care
- 10%** transportation
- 7%** growth management and land use
- 3%** environment
- 3%** social services
- 2%** water supplies

### **Budget and spending**

How should the Legislature address the budget deficit?

- 43%** Cut public services. Don't raise taxes
- 30%** Rely mostly on cuts with modest tax increases
- 17%** Rely mostly on tax increases with modest cuts in services
- 10%** Raise taxes. Don't cut public services

If you prefer that some or all of the budget deficit be made up through cuts, which areas of the budget do you believe should receive cuts?

- 28%** Environmental regulation
- 26%** Social services
- 17%** Higher education
- 7%** Health care
- 6%** K-12 education
- 3%** Law enforcement
- 13%** All of the above

### **Education funding**

In 2000, voters approved Initiative 732 to give teachers and K-12 employees automatic cost-of-living increases, and Initiative 728 to increase funding for class-size reduction. Unfortunately, the initiatives did not provide for the necessary revenue to pay for themselves. Given the budget deficit we now face, what best describes your opinion about these initiatives?

- 35%** Funding for these initiatives should be postponed until the budget deficit is brought under control
- 26%** The voters have spoken and these initiatives should be fully funded, even if it means tax increases or cutting services for other citizens
- 23%** These initiatives should be sent back to a vote of the people along with the necessary revenue increase
- 16%** We should continue funding one of them, but not the other. Which initiative do you continue to support?  
**68% - I-728      32% - I-732**

### **Jobs and Economy**

With Washington's unemployment rate so high, a major focus this year is to find ways to create jobs, retain existing businesses and attract new ones. Which of the following proposals would you support?

- 37%** Streamline permitting so businesses can locate and expand in Washington without costly delays
- 28%** Change the regulatory environment to make Washington more attractive to business
- 21%** Maintain existing business tax exemptions and further reduce business taxes
- 14%** Repeal the state's new ergonomics rules

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25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

# 2003 Legislative Survey Results

Results, continued

## Taxes

In your opinion, are property taxes:

- 55% Too high
- 42% Somewhat fair and reasonable
- 3% Too low

Some have suggested an income tax would be a more stable source of revenue for the state. Would you support a state income tax to replace Washington's current tax structure?

- 71% No
- 29% Yes

## Transportation

In light of the November failure of Referendum 51, (which asked for a 9-cent gas tax increase to fund transportation improvements) how should the Legislature respond to address our transportation needs?

- 51% No new taxes. Let's make do with the money we have
- 28% The Legislature should develop a revenue (tax) package that addresses the flaws of Ref. 51 and put it before the voters again for approval
- 21% Lawmakers should pass a transportation package this session that includes a gas tax increase

One proposal being debated in Olympia would raise the gas tax by one penny each time the Department of Transportation successfully reaches efficiency goals (e.g., if DOT saved a specific amount of money by contracting out more work to the private sector, it would trigger a one-cent increase) for a maximum of 5 cents a gallon increase. Which describes your opinion of this incentive-based approach?

- 66% I would not support it
- 34% I would support it



Rep. Joyce McDonald recently spoke to an Armed Forces Day rally in Puyallup where she encouraged people to support American troops.

For more news and information, visit my website at:  
<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/mcdonald.htm>

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